AMEMDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method of inducing milk production in a mammal, the method comprising:

administering to the mammal, to induce lactation, a milk-secretion stimulating amount of:

i) an estrogen-like agent (ELA); and

~~{ii)~~]a progestational agent (PGA); wherein the first day of administration is defined as day 0; and

ii) a ~~{somatotropin}~~ biologically active somatotropin (ST) ~~{in said mammal,}~~; wherein the somatotropin is administered to the mammal to provide bioavailability of a milk-secretion stimulating amount beginning on day 0 and continuing for 20 days or more;

wherein the ~~{first day of treatment is designated day 0 (zero)}~~ mammal is a bovine selected from the group consisting of dairy heifers and dairy reproductive culls.

2. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1 wherein the ELA and PGA are administered as either a single sustained-release dose or are administered for approximately 5-12 days, beginning on day 0 ~~{zero, and wherein the somatotropin is administered for at least 20 days from day 0}~~.

3. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 2 wherein the ELA is administered at a dose of approximately 0.001 to 0.1 mg/kg/day and the PGA is administered at a dose of approximately .0025 to 0.25 mg/kg/day and is administered for approximately seven days.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 2 wherein the somatotropin is administered for at least 30 days from day 0.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 4 wherein the somatotropin is administered ~~{on as}~~ in approximately 4 doses.

6. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 4 wherein the somatotropin is further administered in a sustained-release dose approximately every 14 days throughout lactation.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising administering a milk-secretion enhancing amount of a glucocorticoid.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the glucocorticoid is administered either on approximately day 10 to day 17 of the treatment or approximately 6 days after the final ELA administration.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the glucocorticoid is dexamethasone administered at a dose of approximately 0.005 to 0.5 mg/kg on approximately day 10 to day 17 of the treatment.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising subjecting the mammal to milk-stimulating photoperiods starting on, or before, day 0.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said photoperiods:

a) comprise 12 consecutive hours of light and 12 consecutive hours of dark during each 24 hour period;

b) comprise progressively longer periods of light during each successive 24 hour period; or

c) comprise progressively shorter periods of light during each successive 24 hour period.

12.–13. **(Cancelled)**

14. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1 further comprising providing physical stimulation of the ~~[mammals]~~ mammal's mammary gland region at least once daily for at least 7 consecutive days, starting on approximately day 7 of the treatment.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the mammals mammary gland region is stimulated at least three times daily.

16. **(Cancelled)**

17. **(Currently Amended)** A method of inducing milk production in a mammal, the method comprising:

administering to the mammal, to induce lactation:

i) an estrogen-like agent (ELA), subcutaneously, at a dose of approximately 0.007 to 0.7 mg/kg/body weight;

ii) a progestational agent (PGA), subcutaneously, at a dose of approximately 0.0175 to 1.75 mg/kg/body weight/;

iii) ~~{glucocoriticoid}~~ a glucocorticoid, intramuscularly, at a dose of approximately .005–.50 mg/kg/body weight; and

iv) a ~~{somatotropin}~~ biologically active somatotropin ~~{in the mammal}~~, subcutaneously, at a dose of approximately 250-750 mg;

wherein ELA and PGA doses are each administered beginning on day 0; wherein the dexamethasone dose is administered on approximately day 10 to 17; wherein the first day of treatment is designated day 0 (zero); wherein the somatotropin is administered beginning on day 0 and periodically thereafter as required to maintain the bioavailability of a milk-secretion stimulating amount through at least day 20 of the treatment; and wherein the mammal is selected from the group consisting of dairy heifers and dairy reproductive culls.

18.–20. **(Cancelled)**

21. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim ~~[20]~~ 1 wherein with the ELA is 17β-estradiol administered on day 0, as a slow-release pellet, at a dose of approximately 0.7 mg/kg body weight, wherein the PGA is natural progesterone administered on day 0, as a slow release pellet, at a dose of approximately 1.75 mg/kg body weight; wherein the somatotropin is administered as a sustained-release pellet approximately every two weeks throughout lactation; wherein the method further comprises administering, intramuscularly, dexamethasone on day 13, at a dose of approximately 0.05 mg/kg body weight; and wherein the treatment further comprises stimulating the mammary gland of the heifer or ~~[cow]~~ cull at least 2 times daily for at least seven consecutive days beginning on approximately day 7.

22.–25. **(Cancelled)**